

OUSTED CONTRA LEADER SAYS CIA ACTING ALONE IN NICARAGUA
MIAMI

The Central Intelligence Agency frequently carries out terrorist activities in Nicaragua on its own, while attributing the actions to opponents of the Sandinista government, ousted rebel leader Edgar Chamorro said in an interview published today.

Among the operations carried out by the CIA without consultation with the rebels was the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, said Chamorro, who was expelled last week from the directorate of the anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan Democratic Force, known as the FDN.

"The mining of the harbors, that was completely the CIA," Chamorro told the Miami News. "We don't have boats. We've never even seen a mine."

FDN President Adolfo Calero was quoted as calling Chamorro "a loose cannon."

Chamorro, 53, said he was speaking out because he does not believe Congress will renew aid to the contras and because he does not want the rebels to be blamed for CIA failures.

"We were not part of the decision-making, the planning," he said. "That was decided completely by the CIA."

Chamorro acted as the FDN spokesman in Honduras until he was removed by the contra group.

He said that after operations were carried out, assistants to the CIA station chief in Honduras would bring him press statements for distribution that were fabricated accounts of FDN activities actually carried out by the CIA.

"At midnight, they'd wake me up, and I'd drive to the radio stations," Chamorro said. "Sometimes I'd improve the writing (of the press releases.)"

One CIA release attributed a bombing of leftist rebels in neighboring El Salvador to the FDN.

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